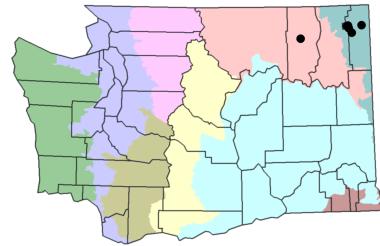


Carex rostrata Stokes
beaked sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive
rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Colonial sedge with long rhizomes; stems round or 3-angled in cross section, 8-90 cm. Leaf blades strongly whitish green, 1.5-4.5 (7.5) mm wide, U-shaped in cross section, strongly papillose on upper surface, margins rolled inward toward the upper surface, the widest

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence 10-30 cm; lower bract 18-45 cm, exceeding the inflorescence, but not more than 2.5 times longer. Lower (1) 2-3 spikes female, cylindric; terminal (1) 2-4 spikes male, elevated beyond female spikes. Female scales lanceolate-ovate, 2.5-4.5 (8.8) x 0.8-1.6 mm, mostly shorter than the perigynia. Perigynia spreading, green or straw colored, 3.6-5.8 x 1.7-2.8 mm, with 9-15 veins. Beak 1-2 mm, with 2 straight teeth. Stigmas 3.

Fruits: Achenes 3-angled, brown, smooth. Flowers and fruits July to August.

Identification Tips: *C. utriculata* is often mistakenly identified as *C. rostrata*. Leaf blades of *C. utriculata* are broader (widest 4.5-12 mm), flat to widely V-shaped, bright green, and lack papillae.

Range: Eurasia, Greenland, Canada, AK, ID, IL, MI, MN, MT, WA, and WI. Limited in WA to the northeastern part of the state.

Habitat/Ecology: Fens, bogs, quaking or floating peat, lake and stream shores, wet meadows; often in shallow water or on floating mats. Associates include subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), yellow pond lily (*Nuphar polysepalum*), bur-reed (*Sparganium* spp.), sphagnum moss, and horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.). Elevations in WA: 975-1560 m (3200-5120 ft).

Comments: Threats include cattle grazing and hydrologic alteration. Because of the mosaic nature of bog vegetation, even a small disturbance could result in a significant loss of habitat and individuals. This species is rare in several Canadian provinces , ID, IL, and MT.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23; Griffiths 1989; Kovalchik & Mastrogiovanni 1991.



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